

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment, reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection in the Final Office Action, and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-16, as shown above, remain pending herein. Claims 1, 4, 7, 8 and 11 have been amended, support for which can be found in the specification at page 3, lines 13-19.

Summary of the Rejections:

(1) Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Stenger of record (DE 3608489A1) in view of Katata et al. (U.S. 5,815,601 hereafter “Katata”) and Woodfill et al. of record (U.S. 6,215,595 hereafter “Woodfill”).

Applicants’ Traversal:

Applicants have amended base claims 1, 4, 7, 8 and 11 to recite, *inter alia* that:
wherein a contour of a participant whose image is at least part of the stereo pair of images is not represented by a precise number of pixels but rather said contour is defined by the 8 X 8 DCT blocks. As disclosed above, support for this change is found in the specification at page 3.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Stenger, Katata and Woodfill fails to disclose the instantly claimed invention. In fact, the combination of references are completely silent in the regard to the image reproduction of contours, and do not in any way address the issue of contours, as in the presently claimed invention.

With regard to rejections under 35 U.S.C., §103(a), the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has held that:

The mere fact that the prior art may be modified in the manner suggested by the Examiner does not make the modification obvious unless the prior art suggested the desirability of the modification.

In re Fritch, 973, F.2d 1260, 1266, 23 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1780, 1783-84 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Here, the Final Office Action has not set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness because the suggested desirability of receiving images without *wanting to obtain exact contours of images* (by relying on 8 X 8 DCT blocks instead) is not disclosed, taught, suggested, nor would an artisan have found motivation from teachings of the references to modify the prior art.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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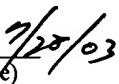
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